

Romulus News

APRIL 4, 2003 – APRIL 17, 2003

"the little paper"

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 18

Timely Tidbits ...

Petition Deadline Near

Any resident who wishes to have his/her name appear on the June 9 ballot as a candidate for the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education has until 4 p.m. on Monday, April 7, to file candidacy petitions with the Romulus City Clerk's Office, located in City Hall at 11111 South Wayne Road. Call 734-942-7540 for more info.

Carr Review Favorable

The Romulus Board of Education has given Joel R. Carr, the district's superintendent of schools, a favorable evaluation on his duties as chief executive officer of the Romulus Community Schools.

The Board's evaluation covered six different aspects of Carr's job performance, including his relationship with the Board, district employees, and the community, as well as his leadership in the areas of administration, business/finance, and personal professional expertise.

Board spokesmen say that the Board is looking forward to continuing its close working relationship with the superintendent, and note that this cooperative/team-work approach will be increasingly important as the district addresses future challenges of educational excellence and financial stability.

Book Sale at Library

The Friends of the Romulus Public Library will host a used-book sale at the library (located at 11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall) from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. this Monday through Wednesday, April 7–9, and from 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. The enormous selection of donated books includes both fiction and nonfiction, and features a variety of books on crafts, cooking, and gardening. During the first three days of the sale, hardback books will be available for \$1 each, paperbacks for \$.50 each, and children's books for \$.25 each; on Saturday – "Bag Day" – shoppers can fill a grocery bag for just \$1.50. For more information, call 734-942-7589. □

Councilman Gives Back to the Community

Blue skies and budding tulips are quickly replacing snowdrifts and oppressive gray clouds. Temperatures are rising from brrrr! to balmy. And birds whose songs have been absent from the air for five long, cold months are making their presence known once again. All of these are welcome signs heralding the end of another brutal Michigan winter and the emergence of a long-anticipated spring.

The onset of spring also brings more young bicyclists, skaters, and skateboarders to our neighborhood streets and parks. That's one reason why Romulus City Councilman Charles "Chuck" Miller recently donated 100 new safety helmets to the City's Department of Parks and Recreation.

"After being cooped up all winter, I think folks are anxious to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather," said Miller. "Especially the kids."

Concerned that Romulus youths might be unprepared for a safe bike ride, Miller went to the Meijer store in Belleville and bought the helmets in a variety of children's sizes. The helmets will be distributed, free of charge, to area youngsters attending the "Bicycle Safety Day" program to be held at the Recreation Center (located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus) on Tuesday, April 29, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

"Councilman Miller is helping to make this spring and summer a lot more fun and a lot safer for some of our kids," said Herb Buckley, director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

"I ran for city council in 2001 to give back in service to the community I love," said Miller. "Donating these helmets to the kids is just one way I plan on keeping my commitment to the community."

Since being elected to the Romulus City Council in November of 2001, Miller has also donated his taxable yearly council salary of \$7,900 to other community improvement initiatives. It's a salary that he could certainly find other and more immediate family uses for: Miller, 59, who retired from GM after 35 years, and Anna Lou, his wife of 40 years, have lived on a modest fixed income for the past 7 years.

"One of my goals in donating my time and salary to various community endeavors is to raise the bar for other elected officials," said Miller. "It's easy for some folks to forget why they got into politics. But the true purpose of politics, at least for me, is to make the lives of



Mayor Alan R. Lambert (right) thanks Romulus City Councilman Charles Miller for his generous donation of 100 new safety helmets, which will be distributed to local children just in time for spring riding.

people better by being a force of positive change for the community."

Few who have followed Miller's political career doubt the sincerity of his commitment. If he believes he's championing his constituents' cause – as in the

case of his continued fight against a waste disposal well proposed for operation in Romulus – he'll take on any opponent, even a federal institution like the Environmental Protection Agency.

continued on page 8

City Millage Second Lowest in County

Assessor Julie Albert is pleased to announce that the City of Romulus levies the County's second lowest millage rate.

"Of the 33 cities in Wayne County, only one other jurisdiction levies a lower city millage rate," Albert explained. "This means that the decision-makers in the City of Romulus are exercising sound fiscal judgment and exhibiting strong financial responsibility. While other communities are levying higher millage rates (some two to three times higher) and collecting more tax dollars for their city, Romulus is providing similar city services at a lower millage rate."

The various millage rates levied by Wayne County municipalities are:

- Livonia: 11.4269
- Romulus: 11.6229
- Westland: 11.9282
- Allen Park: 12.64
- Grosse Pointe Woods: 14.08
- Grosse Pointe: 15.0374
- Grosse Pointe Park: 15.3074
- Dearborn: 15.32
- Grosse Pointe Farms: 15.3574
- Belleville: 16.6
- Plymouth: 17.0316
- Woodhaven: 17.07
- Northville: 17.1207
- Flat Rock: 17.25
- Gibraltar: 17.37
- Garden City: 17.7542
- Riverview: 17.96
- Southgate: 18.3564
- Dearborn Heights: 18.4402
- Wyandotte: 18.555
- Wayne: 19.35
- Ecorse: 19.4
- Rockwood: 20.5
- Trenton: 21
- Taylor: 22.9785
- Lincoln Park: 23.379
- Harper Woods: 23.1295
- Hamtramck: 23.5085
- Inkster: 27.4275
- Melvindale: 31
- Highland Park: 33.0752
- Detroit: 34.5111
- River Rouge: 36.673 □

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. (Writers need not be afraid to include their name when asking for anonymity, since all such names are kept in the strictest confidence, regardless of whether or not the letter is published.)

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Scout Seeks Your Help

To the Romulus community:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jonathan McLachlan, and I am an Eagle Scout candidate in Romulus, Michigan. As you are probably aware, the rank of Eagle Scout is the highest distinction that can be earned by a Boy Scout. In fact, many prominent people in society were/are Eagle Scouts, including several presidents and astronauts.

One of the things an Eagle Scout candidate must do to fulfill the requirements of the rank is to perform a service project that benefits the community. I have chosen C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, located at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, as the "recipient" of my service project.

They are in need of additional (or, in some cases, replacement) "game carts" for the children that are inpatients at the hospital. It seems that no matter how many they have, unfortunately, sick children must wait for an available game to help them pass the time.

I am collecting new or "usable" used video game consoles and the games to go with them. Additionally, small color

television monitors are needed to connect the equipment to, as well as the carts to mount them on. The hospital and I have set a goal of 12 units to assist these sick children.

I am asking the people in my community to help me with this service project, which I hope to finish by April 30, 2003. Any assistance that donors wish to provide will be greatly appreciated.

I may be reached at 734-941-3829 to arrange for pickup, or donations may be mailed to me at 16268 Wildfox Court, Romulus, MI 48174.

Thank you,
Jonathan T. McLachlan

Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Seeks New Members

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3323 of Westland, Michigan, is seeking eligible ladies to join our ranks.

Those eligible for membership to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary are wives, widows, mothers, foster mothers and stepmothers who performed the duties of a parent, grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, foster daughters, stepdaughters, sisters, half-sisters, foster sisters, and step-sisters of a veteran of honorable service in the United States Armed Forces who is authorized to receive a campaign medal or ribbon for overseas service.

In addition to overseas service, President Bush recently signed into law HR3838, extending membership eligibility into the Veterans of Foreign Wars to veterans who have received Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, enabling ladies to join the Ladies Auxiliary VFW under this new eligibility.

Those seeking membership in the VFW Ladies Auxiliary also must be at least 16 years of age and a United States citizen.

Proof of eligibility is shown on the veteran's separation document, DD214, or by certifying that the veteran received Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay.

Member benefits include cancer grants and insurance, free travel service, the opportunity to apply for a VISA credit card, discounted shopping, and discounts on magazine subscriptions, in addition to many other benefits.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW is one of the largest groups in the nation, raising over \$3 million each year to fund cancer research. The 671,501 Auxiliary members advocate for veterans as well as military personnel currently serving our country and their families. Members also volunteer at Veterans Administra-

tion Medical Centers and nursing homes throughout the country, and for organizations such as the March of Dimes, Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald Houses, and Make A Wish Foundation.

The membership fee for new members is \$25 for the first year and \$20 yearly thereafter. Interested ladies can also join as life members. For more information, feel free to contact Helen Stevens, Auxiliary membership chairman, at 734-728-9946, or Sandra Borieo, Auxiliary president, at 734-729-5791.

Sincerely,
Christine Shaffer, publicity chairman
VFW Ladies Auxiliary #3323

An Update from the Historical Society

The Romulus Historical Society elected officers for the year at its January 2003 meeting. These people are responsible for directing the activities and programs of the group. They are:

- Gerald Wendland, president
- Cathy Morse, vice-president
- Gloria Chandler, treasurer

- Genevieve Dugan, recording secy.
- Ken Krueger, corresponding secy.

One of the ongoing projects of the Society is the operation of the Romulus Historical Museum, which is a part of the City-owned Romulus Historic Park. Recently, the Museum received a new coat of paint, courtesy of the Romulus Department of Public Works.

Guided tours of the Museum are available. To make an appointment, call 734-697-9628.

The Society would like to give special thanks to Kathy Billings, CPA, of the firm of Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel, for completing both their federal and state tax forms for 2002. She has been doing this work gratis for many years. Her work is greatly appreciated.

The Society still meets in the Romulus Historical Museum on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

For further information, please call 734-942-2340.

Sincerely,
Ken Krueger, corresponding secy.
Pearl Varner, Museum director □

The Romulus News

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We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

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Court Staff Undergoes Training



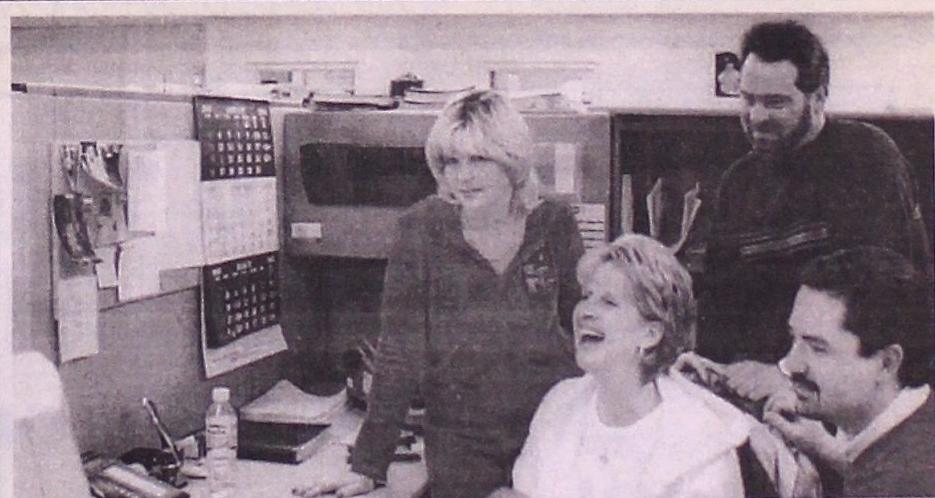
Among those taking part in the court's recent training program were (from left) criminal/traffic supervisors Dawn Springer and JoAnn Brown, Quad-Tran of Michigan vice-president Donna Elliott, probation director Carol Bowman, and court clerk Boots Pond.

The staff of the 34th District Court in Romulus recently underwent an all-day in-house training program. Seminar participants included employees from the civil, criminal/traffic, and probation departments, as well as court administrator Johanna O'Grady-Ward, Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green, Judge Brian A. Oakley, and Judge David M. Parrott.

"It is extremely important to keep our staff highly trained to meet the demands of this busy court," said Green.

Among the training sessions was a seminar on automated case management and electronic case reporting, conducted by Donna Elliott, vice-president

of Quad-Tran of Michigan. Al Hindman, director of security and information technology at the court, provided an overview of computer connectivity problems and how to solve them, and staff members also learned proper computer shutdown procedures and system troubleshooting measures, coupled with valuable Internet information on privacy protection. Audiovisual materials from the Michigan Judicial Institute provided information on abstracting from the Secretary of State's office, as well as support personnel training information entitled "I'm Sorry I Can't Give Legal Advice" and "A Commitment to Excellence." □



Karen Genz (seated), 34th District Court clerk, demonstrated computer software to Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green, Judge David M. Parrott (standing), and Judge Brian A. Oakley.

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Court Provides Alternative Opportunity for Youthful Offenders

Staff and students got a firsthand look at juvenile legal procedures when Judge Brian A. Oakley moved his 34th District Courtroom to Romulus High School one day last month for three hearings involving youthful offenders. Oakley used the opportunity to explain an alternative program that allows some juvenile offenders to remain within the local court system on a probationary basis instead of having to go to Detroit for a criminal citation.

"If the offender and his/her family agree to accept and abide by all probationary assignments, juveniles who are issued a citation have the opportunity to work with the 34th District Court instead of the courts downtown," Judge Oakley explained.

According to Oakley, a juvenile taking advantage of the alternative program is issued a civil violation, and must work with the judge and probation officer Steve Williams to satisfy a number

of guidelines designed to help him/her become a better citizen.

"The terms of probation often include a review of the child's school report card—with higher grades and better citizenship required—as well as community service, driver's license suspension or denial, and random drug tests in the case of substance-abuse situations," Williams noted.

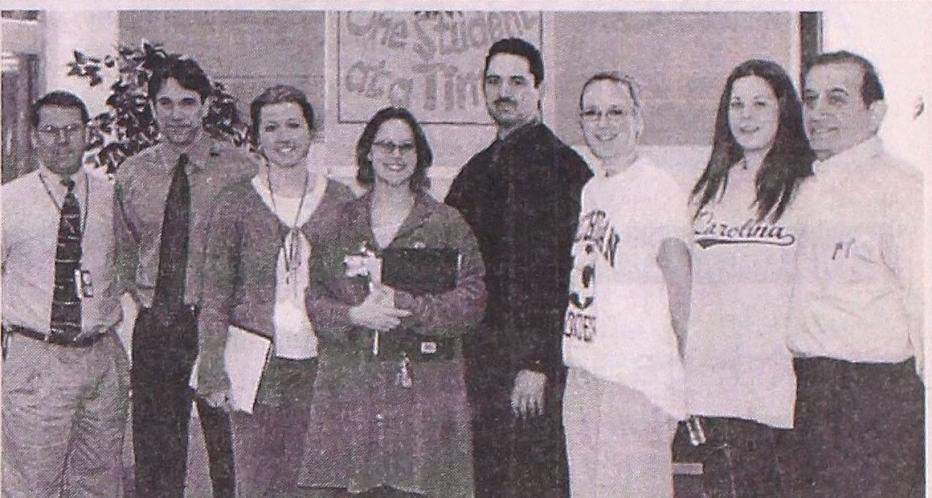
Failure to complete the terms of probation automatically results in the case reverting to a criminal matter to be adjudicated in Detroit.

Although the juvenile alternative program has been used in Romulus for some time, it's only recently that other communities in the court's jurisdiction—Belleville, Van Buren, Huron, and Sumpter—have come on board.

"We had to get some local ordinances changed to make this program possible, but it has been a definite success with the juveniles and their families," Oakley stated.

Romulus High School principal Dan Hurst was pleased with the success of the school's day-long court session, which gave more than 100 students and staff members a chance to witness juvenile justice in action.

"We wanted the students to see how this program works, how the judge questions offenders, and what the con-



Judge Brian A. Oakley (fifth from left) took probation officer Steve Williams (second from left) and his 34th District Courtroom to Romulus High School, giving staff and students—including (from left) assistant principal Don Foley, social-studies teachers Christie Pagel and Michelle Hill, students Tiffany Ramsay and Tanya Formosa, and social-studies teacher Rod Hanna—an opportunity to observe three cases concerning juvenile offenders.

ditions of probation might be," Hurst stated.

During the hearings, Judge Oakley interviewed the offenders, asking them to explain what habits they intend to change, what goals they have set for the future, and why it is important that they not repeat the cited violation. Since the offenders' parents were present, Oakley also talked with them regarding their

child's situation and the need for future improvements in his/her conduct and citizenship.

Students who attended the program found it a sobering experience.

"When you see a kid just like you standing in front of a judge, it makes you think," said one. "It makes you realize that bad actions have bad consequences in the real world." □

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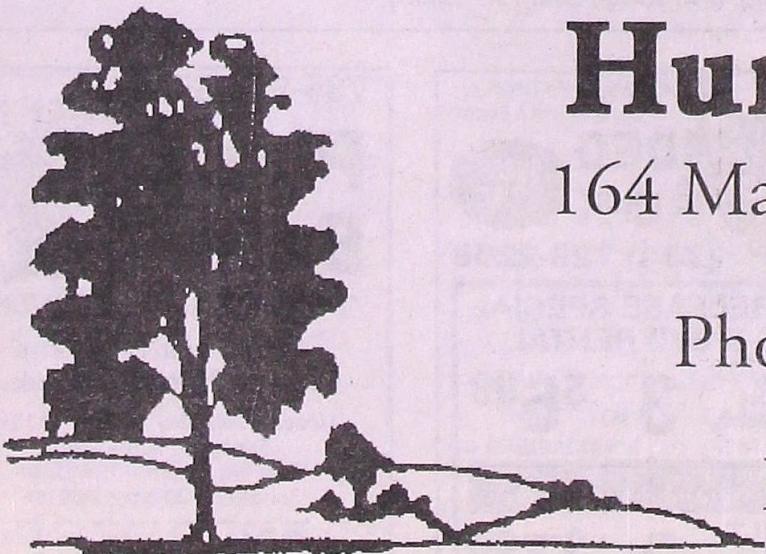
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Senator Basham Introduces Operation Adopt-A-Family

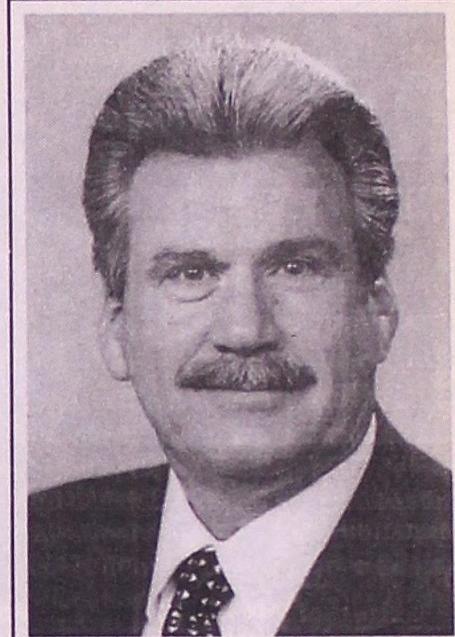
As the nation continues its war with Iraq, State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) introduced Operation Adopt-A-Family to provide information on financial, emotional, and spiritual support to the families of military personnel deployed overseas.

"Having served in the armed forces myself, I know how important it is for those answering their nation's call to know that they and their families have the full support of the American people back home," said Basham. "Operation Adopt-A-Family has been designed to help our military personnel focus on protecting the United States while the State of Michigan focuses on the needs of their families."

Operation Adopt-A-Family will provide help in three ways.

- Local organizations will be enlisted to help families in their search to alleviate hardships directly resulting from the deployment of their spouses or parents.
- Partnerships will be formed between local organizations and public-service groups within communities to maintain an "adoptive" relationship with the families of Michigan's deployed military personnel.
- Support will be generated from the general public and the Legislature to provide funding for the Family Support Network.

"The parents, spouses, sons, and daughters who make up our armed forces are fighting to preserve our democratic way and the principles we hold dear," Basham noted. "Operation Adopt-



Senator Ray Basham

A-Family is just one more way to express our appreciation to our fellow Americans who are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."

Some of the participating organizations include:

- Michigan Sheriffs Association (www.michigansheriff.com)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (www.bu.mvcc.com/vfwmi)
- Michigan Family Forum (www.fatherhood.com).

Additional information on the Operation Adopt-A-Family program is available through Senator Basham's office. Other organizations that want to participate may contact their state legislator for more information. □

Romulus Mayor's Drug Task Force Seeks Scholarship Applications

The Romulus Mayor's Substance Abuse Task Force has established four scholarships, each worth \$1,000, to be awarded to individuals continuing their education in a post-secondary or trade school. The money can be used for tuition, fees, books, or materials directly related to course requirements.

Two different types of scholarships will be awarded: two based on community service and two on vocational education recognition.

One measure of a scholarship applicant's merit will be grades that he/she has received in classes directly related to his/her chosen vocation. Overall grade point average will not be a determining factor for the awards. Financial need of the applicants will be considered.

An applicant may be a senior in

high school, a student in the alternative educational program, or an adult returning to school or continuing his/her post-secondary studies. The scholarships are awarded yearly for any year that the student is attending a post-secondary institution. An applicant may apply for the upcoming year and additional years of studies. Each applicant will be examined to determine if he/she meets all proper criteria.

Applications for a Task Force scholarship must be submitted to Mayor Alan R. Lambert's office at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174) no later than April 28 in order to be reviewed by the scholarship committee. Oral interviews will be conducted by the Mayor's Substance Abuse Task Force subcommittee. □

RHS Biology Students Enjoy Hands-on Lesson in Forensics



(From left) Michigan State Police Trooper Christopher Harris, biology teacher Carmen Lawes, and student teacher Joe Lamden organized a mock crime scene in the vacant lot south of Romulus High School to give students like Christopher Kreutzer, Josh Nichols, AmberTreece, Shannon Allen, and Tim Lewis a chance to study forensics firsthand.

If it's true that kids learn best when the subject interests them, then Romulus High School biology teacher Carmen Lawes is sure to have a classroom of experts before long.

Working with Michigan State Police Trooper Christopher Harris and student teacher Joe Lamden, Lawes has prepared a forensics study unit that requires students to investigate a mock crime scene, interview witnesses, and use the scientific method to evaluate their information and solve the mystery.

The crime scene, set up in the vacant lot south of the High School, featured a good deal of evidence for the students to examine. The burned-out shell of a car – complete with the skeleton of the "victim," a Mr. Henry Ford – had a telltale hose dangling from its gas tank, and was surrounded by footprints, bullet casings, and beer bottles, among other clues. After Trooper Harris coached the students on the proper way to approach a crime scene to keep from disturbing or otherwise contaminating the evidence, he showed them how to take fingerprints from the bottles, make plaster casts of the footprints, and use fixed points and triangulation to take accurate measurements.

Needless to say, the unit has students intrigued.

"We all love it!" said Christopher Kreutzer, one of Lawes's students. "Every day, as soon as we get into class, everyone is asking, 'What are we doing today?' It's really exciting."

Kreutzer said that he and his classmates have already made several revisions to their theories about the death of "Henry Ford" as they continue to evaluate the evidence, which includes conflicting testimony from witnesses/sus-

pets like Ford's wife, his best friend, "Steve Viper," and the local bartender.

"There have been so many twists and turns that no one is really sure what happened yet," he explained. "We're trying very hard to be serious and thorough in our investigation, and to sort out the facts from the rumors we've heard and the assumptions we might have made without realizing it."

Lawes – who was careful to work out a study unit that fits the science curriculum guidelines and benchmarks for both the district and the State of Michigan – says she is confident that her students' hard work and dedication, combined with their knowledge of the scientific process, will bring them to "the truth" in the end.

"It's been a pleasure to see how eager they were to get into this project and try some of the forensics techniques that they've seen on television shows," she said. "I know that they're learning a lot, and loving every minute of it." □



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The folks at Ecorse Quality Electrical Service have returned to their original home at 29653 Ecorse Road, which has been attractively renovated following a fire that occurred two years ago.

Language Arts Department Reports to Board of Education



Wick Elementary students Jezreel Lewis (left), London Brown (fourth from left), and Achlee Fultz (second from right) used the word "apple" to explain the short "A" vowel sound to (from left) April Frayer (treasurer, Romulus Board of Education), Betty Lenossi (acting president, Board of Education), Barb Jaszcza (district coordinator, language arts), Cheryle Buckley (secretary, Board of Education), and Joel R. Carr (superintendent of schools).



Wick first-graders Vanessa Rogers (second from left) and Rachel Leonard (second from right) also explained vowel sounds and gave example words to Board of Education trustees (from left) Niema White, Ken Mientkiewicz, Celeste Roscoe, and Michael Woods.



Wick teacher Tavia Redmond (third from left) had some of her sixth-graders – including (from left) Jon Swaggerty, Levi Adams, Kyara Lee, Tamica Mosley, Jasmine Abney, and Krystal Burrell – demonstrate how they cross-tutor each other on vocabulary words.



Also taking part in the language arts presentation were: (from left) front – Alberta Garrett (media specialist, Romulus High School), Teneka Singleton (department head, RHS), Monica Lewis (teacher, RHS), Jamie Nelson (teacher, RHS), Keisa Sterling (teacher, RHS), Lynne Mossoian (elementary-level strand leader/principal, Romulus Elementary School), Tavia Redmond (teacher, Wick Elementary School), Julie Forth (teacher, WES), and Chris Consales (teacher, WES); back – Heather Stanley (teacher, Romulus Middle School), Chris Hobson (teacher, RMS), Dan Hurst (secondary-level strand leader/principal, RHS), Sandra Godbout (teacher, Halecreek Elementary School), Barb Jaszcza (district coordinator, language arts), and Molly McGlynn (teacher, Cory Elementary School).

At its regular meeting of March 10, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education received an extensive report from the district's language arts department. The presentation featured an explanation of how the department develops reading and comprehension skills among students in grades kindergarten through 12.

Romulus High School principal Dan Hurst, secondary-level strand leader for the language arts department, and Romulus Elementary School principal Lynne Mossoian, the elementary-level strand leader, discussed a number of practices that have been implemented throughout the curriculum. For example, teachers in grades K–3 use a 4-block approach to instruction that helps students learn through:

- guided, content-based reading,
- independent, self-selected reading,
- studying vocabulary, and
- writing essays about their reading assignments.

Julie Forth, a first-grade teacher at Wick Elementary School, had some of her students work with Board of Education members to show off their knowledge of vowel sounds and other phonics skills, while Tavia Redmond, a sixth-grade teacher at Wick, got her students to demonstrate how they cross-tutor one another on vocabulary assignments.

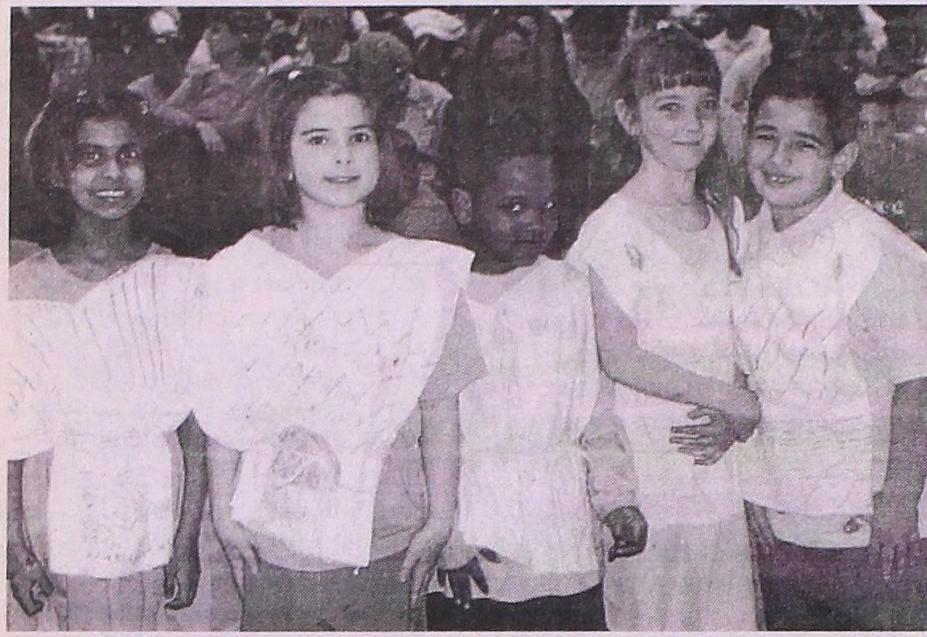
Teachers at the middle- and high-school level explained their use of the Johns Hopkins approach to reading, which involves having students read a "high-interest" age-level book, then review it by writing poems, newspaper articles, persuasive essays, or debate arguments based on what they read.

Secondary teachers – including Teneka Singleton, Monica Lewis, Jamie Nelson, and Keisa Sterling of Romulus High School, and Heather Stanley and Chris Hobson of the Middle School – also made eloquent presentations on some of the books they use in their classrooms. These include:

- *A Wrinkle in Time* (about meeting challenges) for seventh-graders,
- *The Diary of Anne Frank* (about the human spirit) for eighth-graders,
- *Holes* (about crime and punishment) for ninth-graders,
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (about disabilities) for tenth-graders,
- *A Raisin in the Sun* (about the American dream) for eleventh-graders, and
- *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* (about identity) for twelfth-graders.

RHS media specialist Alberta Garrett concluded the presentation with an outline of how the media center helps students achieve their reading goals by providing resources such as paraprofessionals and 58 research computers, as well as activities such as Café Bibliothèque and Kwanzaa celebrations. □

Merriman Enjoys Fifth Annual "Multicultural Celebration"



Among the second-graders who performed the Mexican Hat Dance at Merriman's fifth annual Multicultural Celebration were (from left) Rabia Sheikh, Courtney Thompson, Anthony Wiggins, Savannah Henry, and Dominic Peña.

Merriman principal Shellie Moore welcomed a packed house to the school's fifth annual Multicultural Celebration, held in the school gymnasium. Students from many grade levels exemplified the school motto of "Reaching for the Stars Together" by presenting outstanding performances of music, dance, plays, and poetry throughout the evening.

Among the show's highlights:

- songs and a play from Germany by first-graders from the classrooms of Linda Goulette and Barbara Knight;
- a song, a poem, and a performance of the Mexican Hat Dance by Jeannie Prisco's and Karen Terwilliger's second-graders;
- a Mexican Hat Dance performance by all the first- and second-graders;

- songs from Australia performed by students from Heather Doane's and Jessica Graham's third-graders;
- American square dancing by students from the classes of Karen Fitch and Michele Misiak; and
- a performance of the South African "patta patta dance" and the Ida B. Wells-Barnett play *Riding Against Injustice* by Yvette Austin's and Eleanor Rhodin's sixth-graders.

After the program, parents and students got to sample international desserts that were brought in by the parents, and to visit the various classrooms to see their cultural displays.

Moore thanked the parents for their overwhelming support of this and other educational programs at Merriman. □

Miller Gives Back to Romulus Community

continued from page 1

"Chuck is passionate about doing the right thing for the people of Romulus," said Mayor Alan R. Lambert. "We may not always agree on issues, but at the end of the day, I definitely know two things about him: he cares deeply about the people of this city, and he's a good friend to me."

Miller's family roots reach back to the bucolic hills of Tennessee, but he has called Romulus home since 1946.

"I was two when we moved from Tennessee to Romulus," Miller recalled. "It was my mother, father, and two brothers. I've visited where I was born in Tennessee a number of times and it's a great place. But I always come home to Romulus."

Miller loves Romulus's unique geo-

graphy and its mix of sprawling rural vistas, rich farmland, and city conveniences. More than anything, he loves the park benches in downtown Romulus. During the summer months, he has been known to take a seat on one of those benches and spend several hours catching up with friends and neighbors in casual conversation or political debates. These "bench talks" offer a vivid sense of community that Miller believes is becoming all but extinct outside Romulus.

"Romulus is a great town, and it has the potential to be an even better place to live and work," said Miller. "I'm trying to do my part to make sure it achieves that potential. I guess that's the example I'd like be for others. Set yourself apart. Give all the way. And do what you say you're going to do." □

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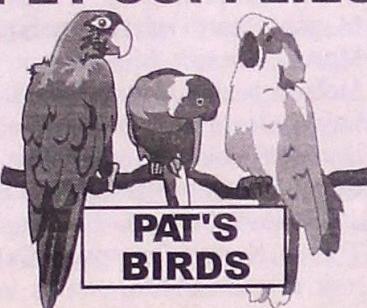


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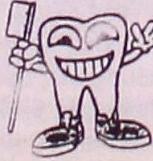
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Credit Union Representatives Visit Adult Education Students



Romulus Adult Education teacher Kim Jensen (left) and students Heather Gray (third from right), Trista Davis (second from right), and Shauntay Baker (right) welcomed Public Service Credit Union human resources director Rebecca Jones (second from left) and Romulus branch manager Julie Anne Lemanski to their school.

Julie Ann Lemanski, branch manager of the Public Service Credit Union on Van Born Road, and Rebecca Jones, human resources director for the credit union, recently visited with Romulus Adult Education students at the invitation of teacher Kim Jensen.

Jensen explained that their visit had two purposes: to talk to the students about the credit union itself, and to interview students as prospective employees. Several students were interested in

signing up for interviews, and filled out questionnaires brought along by Lemanski and Jones.

Jensen said that the possibility of opening accounts for students from Community High School is also being explored, and Bill Musham, the district's Community Education director, indicated that he is working on an arrangement with the Public Service Credit Union to open accounts for Romulus High School students next year. □

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Families Enjoy Reading Night at Wick



Wick Elementary School's Family Reading Night program found principal Debbie Juriga (front, left) reading with Chelsea Shellman (front, right) and Krystal Brown reading with her son Brandon.

Wick Fifth-graders Present *Macbeth*



Fifth-graders from Wick Elementary School teacher Thomas Gibb-Randall's class recently gave a sterling rendition of the Shakespeare classic *Macbeth*. Among the cast were (from left) Whitney Long, Ashlee Wade, Ayonna Lawrence, Chelsea Price, Kyana Lee, Nikko Sisler, Martin Ellis, and Zack Beregsasy.

Wick Sixth-graders Present Black History Month Program

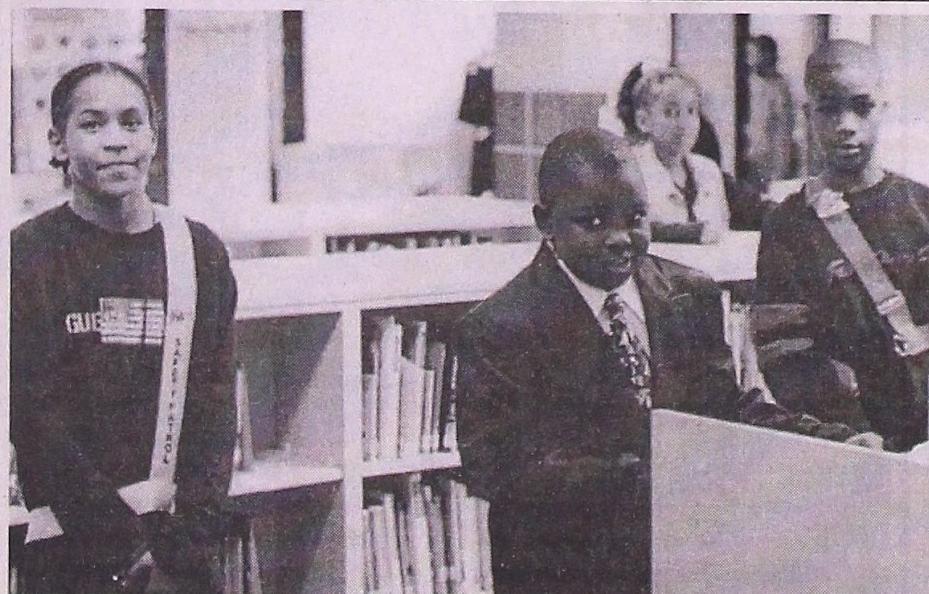
Sixth-graders from the classrooms of Tavia Redmond and Jennifer Richard joined to present an outstanding program in celebration of Black History Month at Wick Elementary. A large group of guests, including Betty Lenossi, acting president of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education, and Cheryle Buckley, Board treasurer, were on hand to enjoy the performance, which was given in the school media center.

The program's format involved a set of sketches about key moments in the desegregation movement in America. The sketches featured historical highlights such as the Little Rock Desegregation Order and the bus boycott in Birmingham, Alabama, as well as the 1964 Desegregation Bill, the North Caro-

olina college student lunch-counter sit-ins, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. A skit on "black pride" was also performed.

Student narrators who informed the audience about the historical context of each event were Tina Carter, Makayla Williams, Byron Paisley, DeAirre Dolsey, Kiarrah Jackson, Joshua Horne, and Jon Swagerty. Class members served as actors and provided the scenery for all the skits.

Principal Debbie Juriga echoed the comments of many of the guests with her closing remarks complimenting the students' "excellent performance," and also commended Redmond and Richard for their patience, expertise, and dedication in making the program a success.



Wick sixth-graders Demetrious Price (left) and Travis Griffin (right) listened carefully as classmate Chris Campbell-Fultz recited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech during the school's Black History Month program.

RHS Honors "Students of the Month"

Over the past several months, Romulus High School has recognized scores of students for demonstrating excellence in behavior and academics through its "Student of the Month" program. Students attending the brief ceremony in their honor received a certificate of achievement and, thanks to the generosity of local sponsors, a \$50 U.S. savings bond.

November

Christopher Anderson, Jason Andrews, Audrey Baskin, Rashaud Best, Brittany Brooks, Antoine Burrell, Tiffany Burrell, Stacy Coffey, Terra Cooley, Elliot Craig, Alexis Cranford, Robert Dawson, Julia Deshazor, Krystin Foster, Martino Fowler, James Gervel, Toni Gibson, Brendon Glenn, Ryan Hawkins, Jamal James, Janet Johnson, Christina Jones, Magan Keely, Hilary Kozma, Krystle McKay, Jason Messenger, Tiffany Motsch, Amber Netter, Joshua Nichols, Lajoya Orr, Michael Patrias, Robert Ray, Donald Richison, Sara Schulz, Darren Sibby, Paulette Stanford, Jill Stanford, Jill Steffani, Tenesha Sstrickland, Rye Theriot, Kenise Thompson, Cali Trevor-row, Ileana Usztics, James VanMeer, Curtis Warner, Kimberly Weathers, Maurice Webb, Patrick Webb, Angela Williams, Lerodd Williams, Amanda Willingham, Brian Wilson, Cassandra Wilson, and Mark Woody.

December

Christopher Anderson, Darnell Anderson, Deborah Anderson, Janiece Armstrong, Keaton Armstrong, Lindsay Beregsasy, Katie Bolus, Rodnelle Burns, Ronald Carter, Kelli Cholette, Chrystal Coleman, Joshua Collins, Jenessa Deshazor, Tonyetta Dickson, Albert Duncan, Brenda Finley, Ryan Foster, Jessica Frost, Rick Hadyniak, Jeremy Harris, Paris Hawkins, Danielle Hendricks, Jessica Hudgens, Jennifer Hunter, Joshua Johnson, Magan Keely, Ashly Kiser, Marcus Long, Adam Malloy, Elizabeth Mongrain, Michael Patrias, Robert Peammon, Nereida Pena, Dijon Piggee, Denisa Rakic, Robert Rice, Thomas Robbins, Andrew Rodger, Jessica Rodriguez, Cilia Sanchez, Sarah Schatilo, Candace Smith, Tiffany Terry, Amy Thompson, Joann Tieppo, Kareena Wells, and Velon Wills.

January

Christopher Anderson, Darnell Anderson, Kenneth Belcher, Jazmine Bennett, Ashley Bishop, Corey Briggs, Laneisha Brown, Ronnie Brown, Tari-tonye Burutolu, Ronald Carter, Tenika Carter, Kristina Camilleri, Kelli Cholette, Carmen Coleman, James Davis, Raleah Davis, Benjamin DeFelice, Alondra Femster, Randall Frye, Wayne Gilbert, Mishelle Gray, Sarah Gray, Shamara Hill-Harris, Kristopher Hindman, Jessica Hudgens, Julian Lambert, Rochelle Malinowski, Vanessa Malloy, Jonathan McLachlan, Andrew McNeil, Christopher Middlebrooks, Patrick Miller, Darrin

Nevels, Michel Patrias, Tiffney Ramsay, Malcolm Rhodes, Brian Rodger, Philip Roscoe, Anne Ross, Thomas Rutherford, John Sandefur, Sawaira Sheikh, Jessica Shelton, Kevin Smith, Ricky Staten, Jill Steffani, Ryan Tackett, Marcia Todd, Rickie Truitt, Ashley Walls, Natalie Watt, and Kelli Weimer.

February

Christopher Berry, Russell Bryant, Kylene Calloway, Joshua Carroll, Brian Cochran, Janeise Daniels, Derrick Du-gan, Rory Frank, Tierra Gibbons, Colin Hulet, Kelly Hardway, Megan Hatcher, Ryan Hawkins, Danielle Hendricks, Bradley Hindman, Melissa Holman, Lameshia Hunt, Paris Jackson, Tom-Meka Johnson, Kevin Kucharski, Justin Lambert, Sherita Leverett, Jeremy Lin-derman, Andrew Lovenduski, Carolyn Moore, Derrick Nevels, Amanda Nowicki, Hanya Ombima, Danny Pitts-Farrar, Tiffney Ramsay, Keona Riley, Darrien Sibby, Jalisa Simpson, Tiffany Smith, Christopher Swantek, Tiffany Terry, Samuel Tilmon, Jerry White, Cherie Whorton, Sarah Williams, and Shelly Yeramian.

Thank You, Sponsors

Assistant principal Don Foley would like to thank the following local individuals and businesses for donating bonds to the program: Barbara Banyai; C & C Trailer Service, Inc.; DGKS Warehouse, Inc./Michael K. Trucking; Downriver Pest Control; Elkins Machine & Tool; Gandol, Inc.; General Contractors; Graduate Services, Inc.; Header Products; Highway Maintenance & Construction Company; Dr. Rhonda Hennessy, D.D.S.; Lasting Images, Inc.; Art and Eva McDonald; Oakwood Healthcare/Romulus Adolescent Health Center; Romulus Community Schools staff members (Melissa Carr, Marjorie Fraley, Michael Hansen, Henry James, Teresa Kamen-sky, Darrell Kenyon, Lance Knudson, Don Kobane, and Jesse Meriweather) and central office administrators; Romulus Flowers & Gifts; Romulus Rotary Club; Dr. Kundan Sata, D.D.S.; Trans-Overseas Corporation; and United Brass Manufacturers. □

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Health Awareness

Editor's note: Articles appearing in the column are written by students from Romulus High School teacher Terri Brinston's health-occupations classes.

National "3D" Month

By Taritonye Burutolu

December is designated as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, which is the month during which communities across the United States join with the National 3D Coalition to increase public awareness of the dangers of impaired driving. National statistics show that impaired driving is at its peak during the month of December, which is mostly a result of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

National 3D Month began as "3D Prevention Week" – a week designated from December 9–15 by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. Since that time, the week has increased to a month, and in 1991, a group of public- and private-sector organizations, collectively known as the National 3D Prevention Month Coalition, made it their goal to significantly reduce the number of each holiday season's impaired-driving crashes. Every December, the 3D Coalition encourages communities, government

agencies, law enforcers, and businesses throughout the nation to spread the message about the dangers of impaired driving. The dictionary defines impaired driving as "a reduction in the performance of critical driving tasks due to the effects of alcohol or other drugs." Since statistics show that young male drivers ages 21–34 are involved in the highest number of impaired-driving crashes, the 3D Prevention Month Coalition tries to direct messages to adult male drivers.

3D Prevention Month is a vital observance. Drinking and doing drugs are horrible ways to not only destroy the body, but to destroy loved ones, too. When someone makes the decision to drink or do drugs and drive, that person is also affecting a stranger's life. About five years ago, I had the unfortunate experience of being hit by an intoxicated driver. However, I was fortunate enough to come out of that incident unharmed. Needless to say, I know what a dangerous combination alcohol or drugs and driving can be.

Long-term abuse of alcohol can cause cirrhosis of the liver, which is a disease where scar tissue replaces healthy tissue. This causes the liver, which removes and neutralizes poisons from the blood, to stop working well. This is one of the many effects of alcohol on the body that I learned about last year in Health Occupations I. These are also some of the dangerous effects the National 3D Coalition informs the public of.

For more information about the National Drinking and Drugged Driving observance, go to the Coalition's Web-site: www.3dmonth.org.



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Acrobats Amaze Wick's Students

Chinese acrobats Du Juan (left) and Tuo Da recently presented an unbelievable show for Wick Elementary School students, who were amazed by this outstanding duo.

Du Juan and Tuo Da were originally scheduled to come to America nearly two years ago, but the tragic events of September 11, 2001, held up their arrival until this year. □

"Reading Night" at Head Start

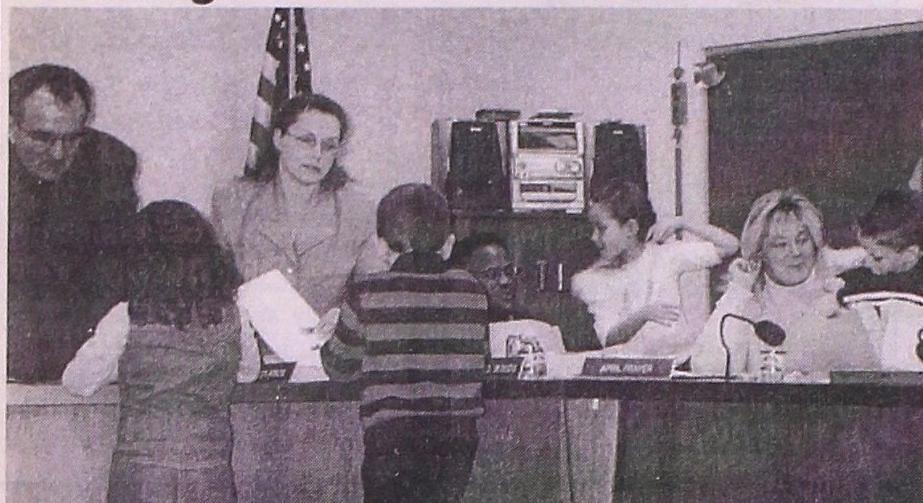


Romulus Head Start director Carolyn O'Bannon reports that parents and children alike were enthusiastic listeners at the program's recent Reading Night event, which drew a record 92 families to the Burton Center.



Dick Kruse, director of public relations for the Romulus Community Schools, was one of a number of local dignitaries who read to the children at the Reading Night program.

Kindergartners Demonstrate Patterns



During one component of the District Math Committee's presentation at a Romulus Community Schools Board of Education meeting held earlier this year, Halecreek kindergartners gave Board members a demonstration of the pattern-making and pattern-recognition skills they have acquired through songs, books, writing activities, and art projects.

Middle School's Wrestling Program Builds to 36 Members

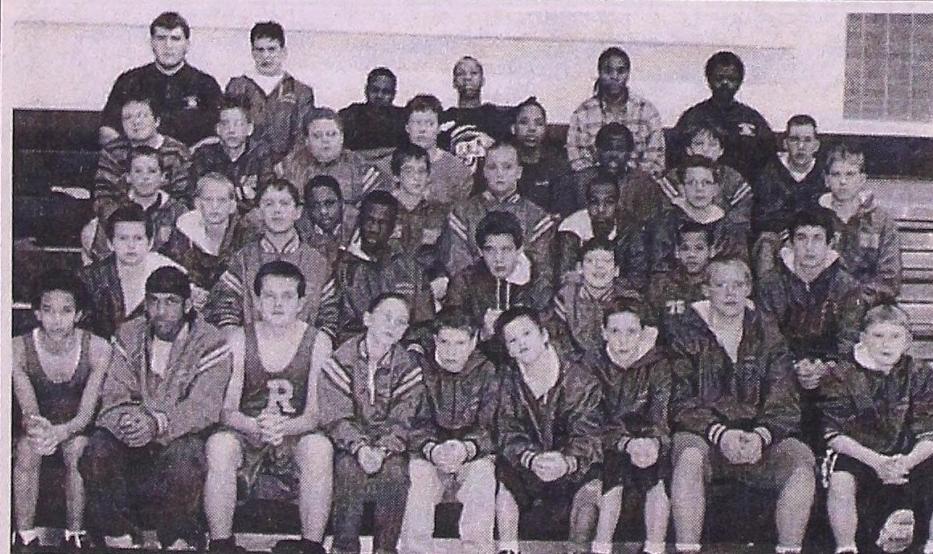
Fans of local wrestling know that Romulus Middle School's wrestling program has a long and proud tradition. Topnotch student spirit and support have played an enormous part in the continued success of the school's outstanding Bulldogs, who often went several consecutive seasons without a loss and usually won their league meet.

Coach Vern Logan, who is also a counselor at the Middle School, was pleased by the large turnout for this year's team and by the outstanding work habits that his wrestlers have shown thus far.

Logan noted that his team really benefited from the additional expertise of assistant coach Nick Smith. Both coaches have enjoyed watching their students learn, develop, and mature.

"Our wrestlers have made a lot of progress throughout this season," said Logan. "My highest praise goes to our only undefeated wrestler, George Wells, as well as to Ben Tuttle, who placed second at our recent league meet, and to Joe Lewis, who finished third."

"Other outstanding team members include Andrew Boyd and Richard Johnson," he added. □



The Romulus Middle School wrestling team: (from left) front – Clinton Gregory, Maurice Anderson, Mark Kokomos, Marissa Cronk, Carl Roscoe, Joe Lewis, Dean Kovacs, Kelly Slominski, and Thomas Kuderick; second – Brian Householder, Lary Nastal, Cortez Turner, Ben Tuttle, Kaleb Heil, Charles Murphy, and Andrew Boyd; third – Chris Appel, Ken Gregory, Shontez Johnson, Jacob Krell, Jesse Kennedy, Paris Kendrick, Patrick Sutter, and Shawn O'Pry; fourth – Luke Hotchkiss, Nick Gregg, Henry Windham, Dean Burcroff, Josh Dew, Raymont Holt, Corey Hayes, and Eric Smith; back – assistant coach Nick Smith, Richie Johnson, Lewis Caldwell, George Wells, Jassmine Parks, and head coach Vern Logan.

Community Calendar

- **Deadline for Billboard Design Contest Nears** – Romulus residents ages 5 to 17 are invited to enter Mayor Alan R. Lambert's Billboard Design Contest. Deadline for entry is 5 p.m. Friday, April 25. For complete contest rules, stop by Romulus City Hall or call 734-942-7571.
- **Craft Show at Progressive Hall** – Romulus Progressive Hall invites the public to attend its next craft show, set for Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 734-941-3044.
- **Kentuckians of Michigan To Host Bluegrass Show** – The Kentuckians of Michigan will host the next several in its ongoing series of bluegrass shows at Liberty Park (located at 28391 Bredow Road in Romulus) from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday, April 4 (featured artists: Eddie Adkins & the Southerners); Friday, April 11 (featured artists: Grass Lake); and Friday, April 18 (featured artists: Steve & Doshia). Admission is \$6 per person. Call 734-782-0132 for info.
- **Free Rose-growing Seminars** – Great Lakes Roses (located at 49875 Willow Road between Rawsonville and Sumpter/Belleview roads in Sumpter Township) invites the public to take part in a free, one-day workshop called ***Pruning and Fertilizing Roses***. Those interested in attending may choose from the following dates/times: Sunday, April 20, at 1 p.m.; Monday, April 21, at 11 a.m.; Sunday, April 27, at 1 p.m.; and Monday, April 28, at 11 a.m. Participants are urged to dress for the weather! No reservation is necessary. For more information, call 734-461-1230 or visit the Great Lakes Roses Web site (www.GreatLakesRoses.com).
- **Adult Ed Offers GED Program** – Pass the GED test and have your certificate by June through Romulus/Van Buren Adult Education. The program is currently accepting registrations for classes that meet twice a week at various times (mornings, afternoons, and evenings) in a number of different locations (Romulus, Belleville, and Taylor) to fit your busy schedule. If you don't have a high-school diploma, and are over the age of 20, the classes are free! For more information, stop in at the Mt. Pleasant Community Education Center on Hannan Road (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) or the main office at Romulus High School on Wayne Road (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.), or call 734-532-1953.
- **St. Aloysius School's Lenten Fish Fries** – The Parents' Club at St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting its sixth annual Lenten Fish Fry series at the school (located at 37200 Neville Road, behind the church) from 4:30 to 7 p.m. (or until sold out) each Friday through April 11. The menu will include fish or shrimp, potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, dessert, and a beverage. Cost is \$7 for ages 10 and up (\$6 for senior citizens), and \$3 for kids.
- **St. Paul's Hosts Special Services** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston, invites the public to attend the following special services: ***Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion*** (April 17 at 7 p.m.), ***Good Friday*** (April 18 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.), ***Easter Sunrise with Holy Communion*** (April 20 at 6:30 a.m.), and ***Easter Morning Festival with Holy Communion*** (April 20 at 10 a.m.).
- **"African American Experience" Book Discussion Group** – The African American Experience Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting: April 16) at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road). New members are always welcome.
- **Open Swimming** – Open swimming continues to be offered at Romulus High School's new pool complex (located at 9650 South Wayne Road, just north of I-94) according to the following schedule: ***Adults Only*** (Mondays from 6 to 7 a.m. and 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m.; and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 a.m.), ***Seniors (age 60+) Only*** (Tuesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.), ***Teens (ages 13-17) Only*** (Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.), ***All Ages*** (Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m.), and ***Family Swimming*** (Fridays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.). To participate, all swimmers must preregister at the Romulus Adult and Community Education Office, located at 39000 Superior. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Proper swimming attire required. Cost for residents is \$3 per session (\$2 for senior citizens) or \$60 for an all-year pass (\$40 for senior citizens). Family passes – a real bargain! – are available to Romulus residents for just \$100 per year. For more information, please call 734-532-1956.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 10, 2003

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, March 10, 2003, was called to order by Acting President Betty M. Lenossi at 6:30 p.m.

Roll call showed members Lenossi, April Frayer, Cheryle Buckley, Michael Woods, Celeste Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, and Niema White present. All administrators were present.

Acting President Lenossi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

3/03/1 Moved by Frayer supported by Buckley to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

3/03/2 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2003 as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT: Michael Madsen, Science Teacher, Romulus Middle School, Effective February 25, 2003.

3/03/3 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe to approve the personnel actions as offered by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

FYI—RETIREMENT: Sharon Zilka, Cafeteria, High School, Effective March 3, 2003.

Bills for Payment

3/03/4 Moved by White supported by Roscoe to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Language Arts Presentation

Mr. Dan Hurst and Mrs. Lynne Mossolian, along with staff and students, presented an overview of goals and objectives for the Language Arts Curriculum in the Romulus school district and responded to questions as posed by members of the Board of Education.

2003 Refunding Bond Report and Approval

3/03/5 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Stauder, Barch & Associates, Inc., for pricing of the 2003 Refunding Bonds. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Cedar Point Amusement Park Trip – Merriman Safety Squad

3/03/6 Moved by Roscoe supported by Frayer that the Board of Education approve a field trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park, Sandusky, Ohio, for June 7, 2003 for the Merriman Elementary School Safety Squad at no cost to the school district. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Resolutions

3/03/7 Moved by Frayer supported by White to adopt resolutions recognizing Diane Hazen for 38 years of service to Romulus as a librarian; Patricia Hebert for 32 years of service to Romulus Community Schools as a teacher; and Bonnie Poet for 15 years of service to Romulus Community Schools as a bus driver. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

None.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) The Merriman Star; 2) Parent Newsletter – RHS; 3) Romulus Middle School Newsletter; 4) Michigan High School Football Coaches Association – Honorable Mention – Academic All-State Award; 5) Commendation from Senator Basham – RHS Adopt-a-Platoon Soldier Support Effort; 6) Communication – MEEMIC Foundation Grant – Kara Pluff, Cory Elementary; 7) Thank You – Learning to Give Presentation; 8) Tim Docherty; 9) Barth Newsletter; 10) Communication – Michigan Department of Education – Barb Jaszcz Requested to Participate on State School Improvement Committee; 11) Living Museum – Thank You – Mrs. Dickson and Mrs. Thompkins, Romulus Elementary; 12) Governor's School Aid Budget Proposals – Middle Cities; and 13) Cory Gazette.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. April Frayer questioned why kindergarten roundup tests were not being given. Mr. Michael Woods questioned whether the district had received \$46,000 from Oakwood Hospitals. Mrs. Niema White mentioned that she would like to see news in school newsletters concerning special education. She further indicated that she would like to receive a newsletter from alternative programs. Mr. Kenneth Mientkiewicz made mention of a communication from Middle Cities with regard to State funding. Mrs. Betty Lenossi issued a special thank-you to all staff for the great Black History Month programs.

Executive Session – Negotiations

3/03/8 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Frayer that the Board convene in Executive Session to discuss negotiations. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Lenossi, Buckley, and Frayer. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

3/03/9 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White that the Board convene in Regular Session. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Lenossi, Buckley, and Frayer. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Regular Session at 8:44 p.m.

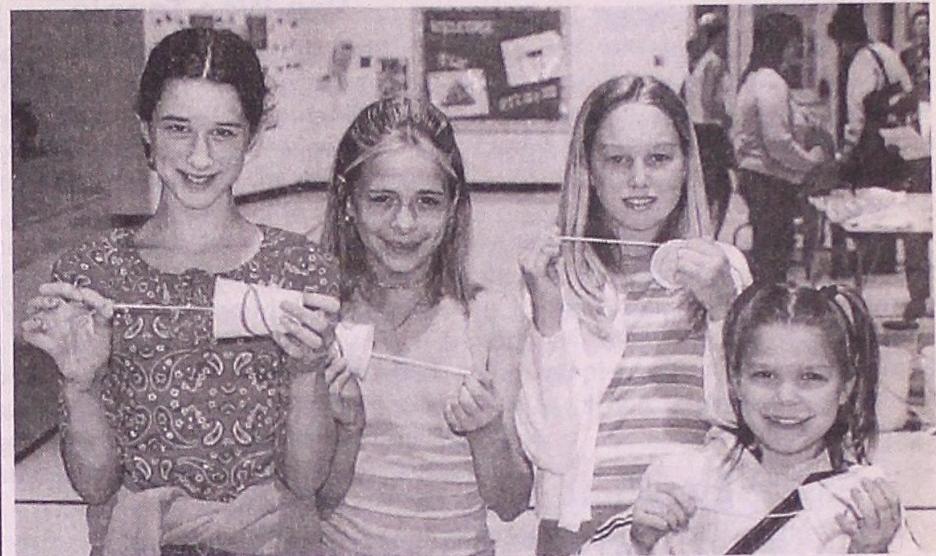
ADJOURNMENT:

3/03/10 Moved by Woods supported by Roscoe that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

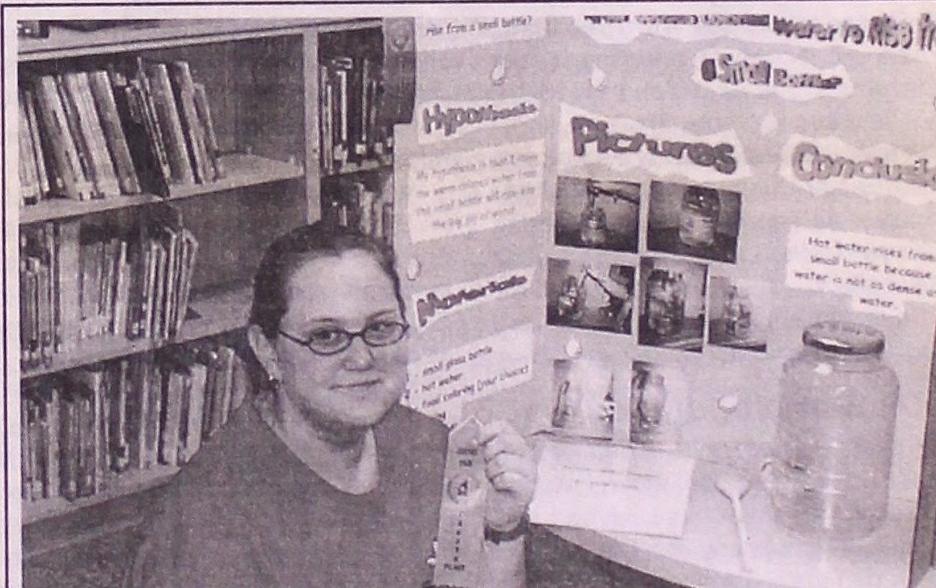
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryle Buckley, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

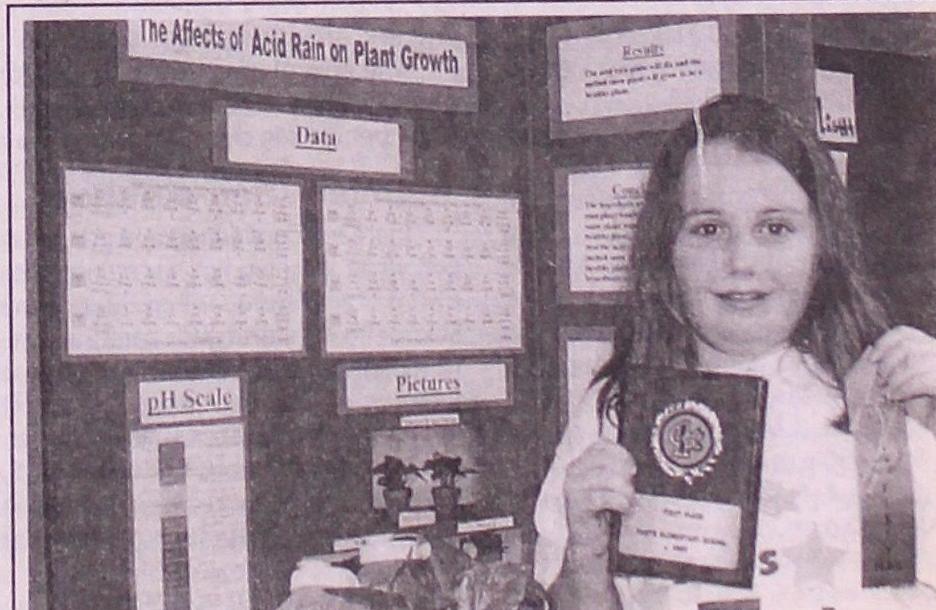
Barth Science Night



Barth Elementary students (from left) Emily Doyle, Samantha Watson, Alexis Moore, and Emily Lewkowicz pulled their thumbs and forefingers along a string attached to the bottom of a cup in an acoustical experiment that they conducted during the school's recent Science Night program. (All four were able to make a sound like a quacking duck.)



Fourth-grader Jennifer Sylvester proudly displayed her first-place ribbon and plaque for her acid rain/plant growth experiment.



Sixth-grader Kayla Dizney showed off the ribbon she received for her exhibit at the Science Night program, which also featured more than 25 hands-on science activities for attendees.

Recreation News

Our thanks to Herbert Buckley, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Kristin Irwin, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation News" column.

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) during its regular hours (weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). For more information, stop in at the Center or call 734-942-6852.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Romulus Recreation Department will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, at Elmer Johnson Park, located on Ozga Road south of Wick. The festivities will begin promptly at noon, and will continue, rain or shine.

Romulus youngsters up to age 10 are invited to take part in this free event, which will feature egg-hunting in four age groups (ages 3 and under, 4 to 5, 6 to 7, and 8 to 10), special prizes, and a visit from the Easter Bunny, as well as a child/Easter Bunny "photo op" (\$2 per picture). All egg-hunters should bring their own basket or bag to carry the eggs they collect.

For more information, please call the Recreation Center.

Tumblebunnies

Learning new skills is heavily emphasized in this course, which includes instruction on apparatus such as trampolines, beams, bars, etc. Classes will be held at the Recreation Center each Tuesday from April 29 through June 10 according to the following schedule:

- ages 3 to 4: 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- ages 5 to 7: 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- ages 8 to 15: 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

Cost for the session is \$60. Preregister by Monday, April 28.

Youth/Adult Tennis

Students involved in the Recreation Department's summer tennis program will be introduced to the basics of tennis and how to work in a team environment. Classes will be held at Romulus High School between June 30 and August 7 according to the following schedule:

- grades K-3: Mondays/Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- grades 4-6: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- middle school/high school: Mondays/Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
- adults: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

A T-shirt is included in the program's \$40 cost. Preregister by Friday, June 27.

Pee-Wee Tennis

Boys and girls in grades kindergarten through three are invited to take part in the Recreation Department's after-school pee-wee tennis "rallyball" program, which will introduce students to the basics of tennis and working in a team environment. Classes will be held at the Middle School from 4 to 6 p.m. each Thursday from May 1 to May 29.

The \$30 program cost includes a T-shirt and transportation from the school your child attends to the Middle School. Parents must pick up their children after class. Preregister no later than Wednesday, April 30.

Tae Kwon Do

The Recreation Department's tae kwon do program can help participants learn values such as self-discipline, self-respect, and respect for others as they acquire self-defense skills and strengthen their minds and bodies. The twice-weekly classes will be held at Romulus High School every Tuesday and Thursday from May 27 through July 17 according to the following schedule:

- ages 4 to 7: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- ages 8 to adult: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The cost of the program is \$45 for one student, \$75 for two immediate-family members, or \$90 for three immediate-family members. Preregister by Friday, May 23.

Kickboxing

A few spaces still remain in the Romulus Recreation Department's explosive, challenging kickboxing program that utilizes martial arts and boxing techniques, along with roping and plyometric movements. Classes, which began April 1 and will continue through May 29, meet at Romulus High School from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, and are open to ages 16 and up.

The cost of the program is \$40 for one day/week, \$63 for two days/week, or \$7 per walk-in class. Register now.

Safety/Self-defense

Increase confidence and coordination while learning tips for being more aware of your surroundings through the Recreation Department's safety awareness/self-defense program, which also features a "stranger danger" segment for youngsters. Classes, which began April 1 and will continue through May 13, meet at the Recreation Center each Tuesday according to the following schedule:

- ages 3 to 7: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- ages 7 to adult: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The cost of the program is \$35 for one student or \$60 for two immediate-family members. Register now. □

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Bride's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

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Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.



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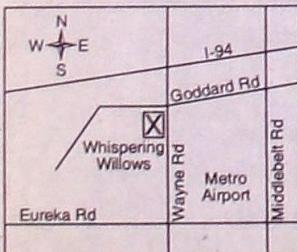
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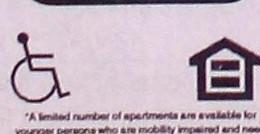
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Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to our "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call the Center's new telephone number: 734-955-4120.)

Free Tax Preparation

Now through April 9, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons will be available at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. (by appointment only) to assist low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older) with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as forms for homestead property tax credits, home-heating credits, and prescription credits.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call or stop in at the Center.

April Luncheon

The Center's next monthly luncheon, set for April 14 at 12 p.m., will celebrate the Easter holiday. Students from Romulus Middle School teacher Betty Santo's leadership class will be on hand to share the festivities and food, which will consist of broasted chicken, cheesy potatoes, a veggie, dessert, and a beverage.

Cost is just \$5.50 per person. Pre-register at the Center.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman.

- **Windsor Racetrack Slots**
(April 25; \$5);
- **Little River/Soaring Eagle**
(April 30; \$105);
- **Holland at Tulip Time**
(May 6; \$69);
- **Windsor Racetrack Slots**
(May 6; \$5);
- **Greek Town Casino**
(May 18; \$12);
- **Kalloway's**
(June 4; \$54); and
- **Titanic (exhibit, Imax, lunch, more)**
(August 21; \$63).

Note: Deposits – due at the time of sign-up – reserve your seat. For day trips, full payment is due at least two weeks before departure. For overnight trips, full payment is due a minimum of 30 days before departure.

Weekly Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens. They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 1 and 6 p.m.),
- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, April 21, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable (\$5) program, call the Center to make an appointment. Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

Ask an Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, at the Center. Walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-942-6852) welcome.

Walk for Fun and Exercise

For safe, indoor walking at your own pace, ride the Romulus Senior Center's van to the Wayne County Community College campus on Haggerty Road on the following dates: April 4, April 8, April 10, April 15, April 17, April 21, April 23, April 25, April 28, and April 30. All departure times are 2:30 p.m. Note: The Romulus Senior Center strongly recommends that seniors consult a physician before beginning any new exercise program.

Open Swimming for Senior Citizens

Open swimming for Romulus senior citizens age 60 and over (proof of age/residence required) will be held at Romulus High School's new swimming complex each Tuesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is just \$2 per session or \$40 for an all-year pass. To participate, all swimmers must preregister at the Romulus Adult and Community Education office, located at 39000 Superior. For more information, call 734-532-1956.

Donations for New Animal Shelter

Thanks to a suggestion by animal-lover Dorothy Federspiel, the Romulus Senior Center has established a collection jar for donations to the Animal Shelter building fund established by City Councilman Bill Wadsworth and his council colleagues. Remember: Every little bit helps! □

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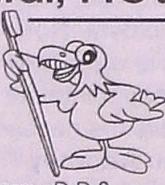
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